GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:09.11.2010
DROUGHT AFFECTED STATES
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni;Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States in the country including West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand have been declared as drought affected during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the affected districts in such States;

(c) whether in view of the drought condition in some parts of the country, the Government proposes to provide subsidy on diesel to farmers on the basis of land-holding records;

(d) if so, the details and the time by which it is likely to be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.11 DUE FOR REPLY ON 09-11-2010.

(a) to (e): In view of deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon (June − September), 2010, the Governments of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal declared drought in 38 districts, 24 districts, 15 districts and 11 districts, respectively. The names of districts declared as drought affected by these States are indicated below:

S.No.	State	Names of Districts declared as drought affected
1.	Bihar	Araria, Arwal, Aurangabad, Banka, Begusarai, Bhagalpur, Bhojpur, Buxar, Darbhanga, East Champaran, Gaya, Gopalganj, Jehanabad, Jamui, Kaimur, Katihar, Khagaria, Kishanganj, Lakhisarai, Madhepura, Madhubani, Munger, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Nawada, Patna, Purnea, Rohtas, Saharsa, Saran, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sheohar, Sitamarhi, Siwan, Supaul, Vaishali and West Champaran.
2.	Jharkhand	Bokaro, Chatra, Dhanbad, Deoghar, Dumka, East Singhbhum, Garhwa, Giridih, Godda, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Jamtara, Koderma, Khunti, Latehar, Lohardaga, Pakur, Palamau, Ranchi, Ramgarh, Sahebganj, Saraikela-Kharsawan, Simdega and West Singhbhum.
3.	Orissa	Angul, Balasore, Bargarh, Boudh, Deogarh, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Puri, Sambalpur, Subarnapur and Sundargarh.
4.	West Bengal	Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan, Hooghly, Malda, Medinapur, Murshidabad, Nadia, North 24-Parganas, Paschim Purulia and South 24-Parganas.

2. It has been decided to implement the scheme of Diesel Subsidy during Kharif 2010 (14-07-2010 to 30-09-2010) in the drought / deficit rainfall affected areas on the pattern adopted during Kharif 2009. The scheme will be applicable in the following cases:

(i) Districts where the rainfall deficit was more than 50% as on 14-07-2010, as reported by the India Meteorological Department

(IMD);

(ii) Talukas / districts which were declared as drought affected areas by the respective State Governments; and

(iii) Areas with prolonged dry spell continuously for 15 days, i.e., scanty rainfall (deficit of 60% or more of normal) for any continuous 15 days period, starting from 14-07-2010 onwards, as per reports of IMD.

3. The scheme was intended to provide financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations which decided to introduce diesel subsidy for the farmers to enable the farmers to provide supplementary irrigation through diesel pump-sets in drought /deficit rainfall affected areas to protect the standing crops and also with a view to mitigate the adverse impact of drought/deficit rainfall conditions on foodgrains production.

4. The scheme was to cover farmers in the affected regions between 14-07-2010 to 30-09-2010 and provide 50% subsidy to the affected farmers on the cost of diesel for upto three protective irrigations subject to a maximum total subsidy of Rs. 1250/- per ha., limited to a maximum of 2 ha. per farmer, irrespective of the size of holding. The assistance so provided through subsidy was to be shared between the Government of India and the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned on 50:50 basis and subject to the participating States/UTs willing to contribute their share of subsidy. It was the responsibility of State Governments/UT Administrations concerned to initially extend the full subsidy amount to the farmers in the drought/deficit rainfall affected areas and claim reimbursement as special grants-in-aid for getting the Government of India's share of subsidy so paid after full disbursement of subsidy amount to the farmers. In case the State Governments/UT Administrations concerned decide on a higher percentage of subsidy, the Government of India's 50% contribution would be capped to a maximum of 50% cost of diesel, subject further to a cap at Rs. 10/- per litre. In case, the State Governments / UT Administrations concerned offer a lower subsidy, then Government of India's share will be limited to 50% of the said lower subsidy amount. In no case, the Government of India's share would be more than Rs.10/- per litre of diesel and Rs.625/- per ha.

5. The guidelines regarding the scheme and modalities of disbursement of subsidy to the farmers were intimated to all the State Governments/UT Administrations.